

Hampson House
(Wales House)
120 S. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-468

HABS
VA
7-ALEX
85-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.c

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Present Owners: Howard W. Smith, Jr., and Albert Bryan, Jr.

Present Occupant and Use: Law Offices

Description

Brick, laid in Flemish bond with moulded brick cornice, gable roof with dormers, paired inside end chimneys with curtainwall on alley end. The house contains some fine woodwork and notable ornamental plasterwork. Federal style.

Number of stories: 3½ stories with 2-storied ell

Historical Data

Year of erection: early 19th C.

Built for (first owner): Apparently Bryan Hampson

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Notable events and occupants

This fine three-bay town-type building is called the Wales House, undoubtedly for Andrew Wales, a brewer of Alexandria before the Revolution. Records of the Virginia Assurance Society for the late eighteenth century, however, indicate the property was owned by Bryan Hampson at that time from 1797 and as late as 1805 his policies covered a frame dwelling and frame grocery store. Sometime between 1805 and 1815 he apparently constructed the present brick house.

It seems probable that the first floor served as Hampson's store while the ample basement was for storage. There is evidence for a second door, having been rebuilt as a window.

References: HABI form prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service.

Approved

Dick Suthon
Chief Architect

Date

Feb. 16, 191-9